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(54) Title: NOVEL FORMS OF T CELLS COSTIMULATORY MOLECULES AND USES THEREFOR

(57) Abstract

Novel structural forms of T cell costimulatory molecules are described. These structural forms comprise a novel structural domain or have a structural domain deleted or added. The structural forms correspond to naturally-occuring alternatively spliced forms of T cell costimulatory molecules or variants thereof which can be produced by standard recombinant DNA techniques. In one embodiment, the T cell costimulatory molecule of the invention contains a novel cytoplasmic domain. In another embodiment, the T cell costimulatory molecule of the invention contains a novel signal peptide domain or has an immunoglobulin variable region-like domain deleted. The novel structural forms of T cell costimulatory molecules can be used to identify agents which stimulate the expression of alternative forms of costimulatory molecules and to identify components of the signal transduction pathway which results in costimulation of T cells.